

Richard Bolden

**Family and Community Engagement Manager for Danbury Charter School,
Parent of Danbury Public Schools Student, Danbury PTO Member**

**Testimony in support of S.B. 1096 An Act Concerning the Charter School
Approval Process**

Thank you, Chairs McCrory, Currey, ranking members Berthel and McCarty and distinguished members of the Education Committee.

In 2018 the State Board of Education approved 2 Charter Schools, one in Danbury & Norwalk. As it stands, Danbury still has the biggest high school in the state ranging from 3,500-4,000 students. The State Board of Education approved charter school in Danbury has been on standby, ready, and willing to help relieve that overcrowding while proposing an international baccalaureate curriculum.

This is not about fast-tracking charter schools; this is a matter of addressing charter schools already approved that have remained in limbo for 5 years being a missed opportunity to bring another option to Danbury in between time. I support creating a one-step approval process for charter schools; moreover, allowing the charter schools that have already been approved to be funded and grandfathered into this bill moving forward.

The disconnect in the state approval process that currently allows local delegation to create blockades that immediately affect educational relief to families who already feel like the current system is failing them with high dropout rates and language barriers create poor educational outcomes in our city.

Thank you!